Fuel Subsidy granted to AIR India

*227. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
SHRI YASHWANT SINGH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the fuel subsidy granted to Air India during 1988-89;

(b) how much of the profit of Rs. 43 crores earned by Air India during 1988-89 can be attributed to fuel subsidy given by Government; and

(c) what are the other major factors contributing to the performance of Air India and what steps Govenment propose to take to put Air India on a sound commercial footing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIV RAJ PATIL): (a) and (b). No fuel subsidy has been granted to Air India during 1988-89. The scheme of bulk discount on uplift of fuel which is applicable to all international airlines including Air-India, has contributed about Rs. 8 crores net to Air India during 1988-89.

(c) Air India have taken steps to improve their performance and profitability as under:—

1. introduction of non-stop flights to various destinations with convenient arrival/departure timings;

2. improvement in reservation and ground-handling infrastructure to provide better services;

3. upgrading the inflight services with the collaboration of reputed agencies;

4. reduction of staff as an economy measure at various foreign stations to reduce costs;

5. efforts have been made to attract high yield business/first class passengers to improve the revenue.

Production and export of poisonous chemicals

@*228. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Poison gas from Indian chemicals which appeared in the Times of India of 11th July, 1989;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that certain chemicals companies in India have sold hundreds of tonnes of chemicals needed to make poison gas to Iran, Iraq and Egypt during the last two years;

(c) whether it is a fact that a shipment of 257 tonnes of these chemicals which was being sent to Iran via Dubai was turned back to Bombay recently; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some Indian firms have exported modest quantities of dual purpose chemicals, used as lubricating oil additives, anti-rust material flame retardants and for manufacturing pesticides and insecticides. These can also be used for the manufacture of chemical weapons. The export of these chemicals, which are widely traded internationally, is not banned under any international agreement. According to the information received by us, the firms had exported these chemicals for permitted industrial activities and had obtained end-use certificate to that effect.

(c) and (d) An India firm had entered into a contract with a UAE company

@Previously Starred Question 95 transferred from 24th July, 1989.

for the supply of 257 tonnes of thionyl chloride. The two parties have since decided to terminate the contract by mutual consent.

Hiring of a firm in America for lobbying

*229. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to hire a top public relations firm in the United States to lobby on behalf of Government;

(b) if so, which firms have been interviewed for this purpose; and

(c) what is the decision of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (c) From time to time we have considered proposals on this point.

Recently, a large number of firms were screened and interviewed in our Mission in Washington. This question continues to be under examination, and, therefore, it would be inappropriate, at this stage, to disclose the names of firms etc.

भारत का प्रक्षेपास्त्र परीक्षण उपकरणों का विक्रय न करने का संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका का निर्णय

*230. **श्री शान्ति त्यागी :** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बुश प्रशासन ने भारत को अत्याधुनिक प्रक्षेपास्त्र परीक्षण उपकरणों का विक्रय न करने का निर्णय किया है;

(ख) क्या हमारे रक्षा मंत्री ने इस मामले पर संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका के प्राधिकारियों के साथ उस देश की अपनी हाल की यात्रा के दौरान बातचीत की थी;

(ग) यदि हां, तो संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका सरकार के इस निर्णय पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री पी० वी० नरसिंह राव) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) भारत सरकार को अमरीकी सरकार के फैसले पर खेद है और उसने इस प्रकार की प्रणाली को देश में ही विकसित करने का फैसला किया है।

Implementation of the recommendations of the empowered committee on matters relating to Kendriya Vidyalayas

*231. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY:

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what decisions have been taken by Government on the recommendations of the Empowered Committee set up to study the feasibility of the recommendations made by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan Review Committee regarding promotional and training patterns and on reorganisation of Kendriya Vidyalayas; and

(b) what are the reasons for not executing its decisions so far?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b). The recommendations of the Review Committee have been forwarded to the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to take follow up action as per rules. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has informed that these will be placed before the next meeting of the Board of Governors of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.